



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1058, S.D. 2, RELATING TO PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Valri Lei Kunimoto, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General appreciates the intent of this bill and provides the following comments.

S.B. No. 1058, S.D. 2, requires the Attorney General to prepare a statement in English and Hawaiian for each proposed constitutional amendment in language that is clear and indicates the purpose, limitations, and effects of the proposed amendment. The bill further requires the Attorney General to distribute the statements to the state Office of Elections and all county clerks to make available at all locations or online sites where they make proposed constitutional amendment questions available to the public.

The Department supports voter education and the intent of this bill. The Department has concerns that it may not be the appropriate entity to draft the statements to explain the purpose, limitations, and effects of proposed constitutional amendments. The proposed amendments ultimately are the product of the legislators, and the statements would best be prepared by those who work closely with the Legislature and preferably within the legislative branch to ensure that the language of any proposed constitutional amendment clearly reflects the intent of the Legislature. The Department notes that, at one time, the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) drafted and disseminated information pertaining to proposed constitutional amendments. The LRB or another legislative entity would be better-suited to prepare statements to explain the proposed amendments. The Department would continue to

participate, as it does with other bills, by providing testimony and when asked, advice and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-1058-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 1:59:54 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



Hawaii

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Hawaii • 307A Kamani St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.275.6275

To: The House Committee on Judiciary
From: Brodie Lockard, Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii
Date: Monday, March 11, 2019, 2:00 pm

In support of SB 1058 SD2

Dear JUD Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members—

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 1058 SD2.

Unbiased information about constitutional amendments can be difficult to find for the average voter. A proposed law this important should be explained clearly for every voter.

Information about what is on a voter's ballot is not available in any consistent place in Hawaii. Providing voters the purpose, limitations, and effects of proposed constitutional amendments is an important step toward a more informed, active electorate.

Please pass SB 1058 SD2 and help Hawaii voters make better decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii

LATE

SB-1058-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 4:47:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 3/11/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe P. Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as voters need clear language explanations of what they are voting for or against. There have been many times when friends have asked me what a certain measure means that they are voting on, and sometimes the language is so obscure that even as a lawyer it is hard to figure out.